



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Liz Walsh, Chairperson

District 1

Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson

District 2

Deb Jung

District 4

Christiana Rigby

District 3

David Yungmann

District 5

Joint Meeting Minutes - Approved
County Council and Board of Education
Monday, September 20, 2021
County Council - Banneker Room
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

9:30 a.m.

Also available via WebEx and live-streamed

County Council, Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 9:37am

Attendees:

Councilmembers – Chair Liz Walsh; Vice-chair Opel Jones; Deb Jung; Christiana Rigby; and David Yungmann

Council Staff – Michelle R. Harrod, Council Administrator; Theodore Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant; Gary Kuc, Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor

BoE attendees – Chair Chao Wu; Vice Chair Jennifer Mallo; Christina Delmont-Small; Vicky Cutroneo; Antonia Watts; Yun Lu

HCPSS Staff – Superintendent Michael Martirano; Kathy Hanks, Board Administrator; Karalee Turner-Little, Deputy Superintendent

1. Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance

Howard County Code requirement to conduct a meeting with the Council, HCPSS and the County Executive to discuss school capacity that exceeds APFO threshold.

Dr. Martirano and members of HCPSS provided the Council and Board of Education an overview of school enrollment. Unofficial enrollments were noted as follows: 2019 was 57,518; in 2020 was 56,279; current in 2021 is 57,668. The Council and BOE had a general discussion about APFO requirements; projected enrollment; effects of development; school capacity; relocatable class rooms; and funding for school construction and renovation.

2. *School Opening – Included discussion on:*

- ***Cafeterias***

Dr. Martirano and members of HCPSS provided details to the Council and BOE about protocols for providing a safe cafeteria environment. Discussion included monitoring of air quality; indoor vs outdoor seating; vaccination rates of staff; shortage of staff and health/safety protocols.

- ***Ventilation and Air Filtering***

Dr. Martirano and members of HCPSS provided details to the Council and BOE about ventilation and air filtration systems installed. Discussion included MERV 13 air filters; air intake and air exchanges; and monitoring of CO2 levels.

- ***Health Room Staffing***

Dr. Martirano and members of HCPSS provided details to the Council and BOE about staff concerns and use of Federal funding for health and safety.

- ***Surveillance Testing***

Dr. Martirano and members of HCPSS provided details to the Council and BOE about challenges implementing adequate surveillance testing.

- ***Busing – alternatives to “double runs” (e.g., driver recruitment, RTA routes, temporary/accelerated pedestrian and bike routes)***

Dr. Martirano and members of HCPSS provided details to the Council and BOE about transportation of students. Discussion included shortage of bus drivers; double routes; use of RTA buses; and school start times.

- ***Digital Education Center***

Dr. Martirano and members of HCPSS provided details to the Council and BOE about enrollment in the Digital Education Center. Discussion included application process; virtual model; and use of DEC during quarantine situations.

3. *Long Term Deferred Maintenance*

General discussion about managing priorities of funding between building facilities; renovations and systemic repairs. Mr. Washington emphasized that repairs and regular maintenance is being performed on school facilities to maintain a safe environment for students and staff.

4. Budget Update

Topic was not discussed.

Adjournment – Chair Walsh adjourned the meeting at 12:27 pm